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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Restore La. Progress Update: Repairs, Reimbursements, Application Intake**

### *Homeowner Assistance Centers Open Statewide*

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – Recovery from last year's historic Louisiana floods reached an important milestone this week as reconstruction work is underway through the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance program. Crews have begun work for Phase 1 participants who either chose a qualified home building contractor through the program or on their own, and reimbursements continue to be distributed to Phase 1 homeowners who have completed repairs on their own.

Also, because of the availability of additional funding, the Restore Louisiana program is now able to expand the eligibility criteria to include Phase 1 homeowners with flood insurance, provided they meet other eligibility requirements.

Nearly 2,700 homeowners statewide have qualified so far for the first phase, and applications have now opened for homeowners in Phase 2 and are being opened for Phase 3.

Two new homeowner assistance centers have opened in Lafayette and Hammond. Those, along with two others previously opened in Baton Rouge and Monroe, are available to help all flood-impacted residents complete program applications, as well as the initial survey that is a required first step for homeowner assistance.

To date, approximately 31,400 homeowners have completed the state's initial flood-damage survey, a required first-step that helps the program determine a qualified homeowner's phase.

The survey does not require any paperwork, though some documentation is necessary at the application step. Completing the application requires photo identification, along with the most recent income tax return forms for each adult household member or a signed IRS form 4506-T granting approval to request a tax return.

“The housing centers are a great resource for all flood-impacted families,” says Jon Mabry, head of the flood recovery effort for program manager IEM. “These centers connect homeowners with a case manager to help throughout the recovery process.”

Homeowners affected by either the March or August 2016 flood are urged to complete the initial [survey](#), regardless of whether they believe they will qualify for assistance. The survey provides critical information about ongoing recovery needs, and it helps the state demonstrate additional needs to Congress.

### **About the Restore Louisiana Task Force**

The Restore Louisiana Task Force comprises 21 individuals from throughout the state who were appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to oversee the rebuilding process after historic flooding in March and August 2016 impacted 51 disaster-declared parishes. The Task Force’s mission is divided into six categories: community planning, economic, health and social services, housing, infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. All task force documents are available at <http://restore.la.gov/resources/>. For more information, visit [restore.la.gov](http://restore.la.gov).

CAPTION: Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program crews have begun work for Phase 1 participants who chose a qualified home building contractor through the state program. Other options in the program include homeowners hiring their own contractor or being reimbursed for work already completed.

